



Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Inc.

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Department of Environmental Protection: Proposed Stream Flow Standards and Regulations Public Noticed in the Connecticut Law Journal on October 13, 2009

February 3, 2010

Paul E. Stacey
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Planning & Standards Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

BUREAU OF WATER PROTECTION AND LAND REUSE
OFFICE OF THE BUREAU CHIEF

FEB 05 2010

Dear Mr. Stacey,

This letter is to correct the record for some mathematical errors presented in my January 27, 2010 Testimony letter. The following paragraph should read as follows:

Golf Courses actually serve as "catch basins" for rainwater and residential/industrial runoff. In fact, it is well known that an inch of rain supplies 27,000 gallons of water over an acre of land. The average golf course is set on 150 acres, and the average annual rainfall in Connecticut is 46". Therefore, the average golf course supplies nearly 200 million gallons of clean, filtered water to groundwater and surface water supplies annually. In the driest of years, an average golf course may utilize 25 million gallons of water for irrigation purposes, so they still represent a net increase of some 175 million gallons to the system. Additionally important to note, is that not every gallon of water used for golf course irrigation is "lost" due to evaporation or plant uptake, much is actually immediately returned to the groundwater system. Proper irrigation practices call for deep, infrequent irrigation cycles. This is accomplished by bringing the soil profile to "field capacity", and then allowing it to dry down. As this cycle is repeated, turf grass roots dig deeper to "mine" the soil for water and nutrients. Over time, the deeper roots make for stronger plants which require less fertilizer, pesticides, and water. By putting superficial limits on daily watering allotments, we are promoting light, frequent irrigation which over time will promote poor root development and weaker plants that require more fertilizer, chemicals and water to sustain.

The original letter stated that the average golf course supplies nearly 2 million gallons of water for a net increase of 1.75 million gallons to the system. I apologize for the confusion, and again appreciate your time and opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

John Garcia, President
Connecticut Association of Golf Course
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Woodbridge, Ct. 06525

CC: The Honorable M. Jodi Rell, Governor
The Honorable Amey Marrella, DEP Commissioner